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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Smelting Plant in Hungnam

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1. The smelting plant in Hungnam (127-35, 39-51) processes gold, silver, lead, and iron.* With the exception of gold and iron, all products of the plant are inspected by Soviet technicians and shipped to the USSR. In March 1949 four Japanese technicians were employed in the plant. In April 1949 this number was increased to nine when one of the Japanese, "MOTOKI", fnu, and three Korean workers, two of whom were KIM Chang-sik (金長植) and PAK Kyu-man (朴奎萬), went to Japan and succeeded in recruiting five additional Japanese technicians. In May 1949, 14 Soviet technicians** and approximately 30 Soviet soldiers arrived in Hungnam. The Soviet technicians assumed responsibility for the operation of the plant.
2. Until April 1949, only soldiers of the People's Army guarded the plant, but in May 1949 guard duty was assumed jointly by Soviet and Korean soldiers. The Soviet guards are stationed at the site of the former office of the plant, about 200 meters from the main entrance. The arrival of Soviet guards and technicians for the smelting plant brings the total of Soviets residing in Hungnam to about 250.
3. Since the arrival of the Soviets, Korean technicians in the plant have been carefully screened and only Communist Party members permitted to remain. Those party members who were considered insecure were also transferred. Soviets, Japanese, and Koreans who hold important positions are well treated. Korean laborers are not well treated. The daily food allotment for the common laborer is four hops, and two hops for each dependent. Since rice is rationed to one chuk daily for each person, and sorghum and bean powder is also rationed, the actual food allotment is less than four hops.*** Some of the sorghum is so old and rotten that it is inedible; one bag which was distributed among twelve persons bore an inspection tag which indicated that it was to have been issued to the Japanese Kwangtung Army before the end of the war.

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